

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2085

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2016

Salim Ali Centre

Sundaram Shri P.R.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps taken by the Government to develop Bird sanctuaries as well as Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) whether the Government has any plan to fill the vacant posts including the post of the Director, SACON and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has provided adequate funds and infrastructure facilities to develop and improve the wild life and Bird sanctuaries, Zoological parks in the country to protect endangered animals and bird; and
- (d) the details of the funds allocated and disbursed during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) Management of Wildlife Sanctuaries including Bird Sanctuaries is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, the Ministry provides financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' in accordance with the Annual Plan of Operation submitted every year and subject to availability of funds to the state governments.

Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) was established in 1990 as a Centre of Excellence under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The Ministry has sanctioned a total of Rs. 5.70 crores to SACON for the financial Year 2016-17 of which Rs. 3.55 crores has been released as first installment.

(b) The post of Director, SACON has been filled up. Action for filling up of two vacant faculty positions at the level of Scientist (Rs.15600-39100 + 6600 PB3) has already been taken up.

(c)&(d) The Ministry provides financial and technical assistance to the State/Union Territory Governments for protection and conservation of wildlife and its habitats in accordance with the Annual Plan of Operation under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of "Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats", "Project Tiger" and "Project Elephant". Details of funds released to States/UTs under these schemes during last three years and the current year is given in the Annexure I, II and III.

Similarly, zoos are operated by the respective State Governments/ Municipal Corporation/Trust/Society. Provision of infrastructure in zoos is the responsibility of the respective operator of the zoo. However, the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) provides financial assistance on case to case basis to zoos recognized under Section 38H of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for development of zoos to protect endangered animals and birds. State-wise details of financial assistance provided by the CZA to zoos during the last three years and current year are given in the Annexure IV.
